

Office of the Secretary, HUD

§ 24.420

based upon an indictment, conviction or civil judgment, or in which there is no genuine dispute over material facts, to a hearing officer or other official for review of the administrative record and appropriate findings. The hearing officer or other official shall issue such findings within 45 days after the referral, and the suspending official shall issue a decision within 15 days after the date of such findings, unless such periods are extended for good cause.

(2) [Reserved]

(b) *Additional proceedings necessary.*

(1) In actions in which additional proceedings are necessary to determine disputed material facts, written findings of fact shall be prepared. The suspending official shall base the decision on the facts as found, together with any information and argument submitted by the respondent and any other information in the administrative record.

(2) The suspending official may refer matters involving disputed material facts to another official for findings of fact. The suspending official may reject any such findings, in whole or in part, only after specifically determining them to be arbitrary or capricious or clearly erroneous.

(3) The suspending official may refer disputed material facts and issues of law to a hearing officer for findings of fact and conclusions of law.

(i) No appeal to the Secretary may be taken under §§ 26.24 through 26.26 of this title with respect to any order or decision by a hearing officer or other official.

(ii) The suspending official shall provide the hearing officer or other official with all the information in the administrative record, including any information and argument submitted by the respondent. The administrative record and any documents admitted at the hearing shall constitute the exhibits in evidence.

(4) Unless the parties mutually agree to extend this period, a proceeding before a hearing officer or other official shall commence within 45 days after referral of disputed material facts and issues of law by the suspending official. The hearing officer or other official shall issue findings of fact within 30

days after the conclusion of such additional proceedings. The time limitations of this subparagraph may be extended upon issuance, by the suspending official, other official or hearing officer, of a written notice describing good cause for such extension.

(5) The suspending official's decision shall be made within 15 days after the hearing officer or other official issues findings of fact.

(c) *Notice of suspending official's decision.* Prompt written notice of the suspending official's decision shall be sent to the respondent.

[60 FR 33050, June 26, 1995]

§ 24.415 Period of suspension.

(a) Suspension shall be for a temporary period pending the completion of an investigation or ensuing legal, debarment, or Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act proceedings, unless terminated sooner by the suspending official or as provided in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) If legal or administrative proceedings are not initiated within 12 months after the date of the suspension notice, the suspension shall be terminated unless an Assistant Attorney General or United States Attorney requests its extension in writing, in which case it may be extended for an additional six months. In no event may a suspension extend beyond 18 months, unless such proceedings have been initiated within that period.

(c) The suspending official shall notify the Department of Justice of an impending termination of a suspension, at least 30 days before the 12-month period expires, to give that Department an opportunity to request an extension.

[53 FR 19182 and 19204, May 26, 1988, as amended at 60 FR 33051, June 26, 1995]

§ 24.420 Scope of suspension.

The scope of a suspension is the same as the scope of a debarment (see § 24.325), except that the procedures of §§ 24.410 through 24.413 shall be used in imposing a suspension.